

Boat Parade, June 9, 2006

It all began on a warm summer night with Pinky trying earnestly to keep his boat afloat for the 20-minute requirement.

Getting away from the dock proved to be a major challenge on Saturday night. We suffered one inverter failure (Dawg and Pup in the "Dawg Boat").

Departing at 7:45, the Blackwater pirates headed north up-river under a beautiful moon (note picture) or a relaxing cruise which was the River Run Marina.

Our crews meandered up to Navy point. It was



at this point that Bones began to have battery problems (from a switch he had left on) and, of course Pinky continued to sink. As we went up Moccasin Run we suddenly noticed that the big boats were not behind us. At that time we did not realize they couldn't transit the shallow point at the Moccasin Run turn. Once we re-entered the river and headed north thinking Graybeard (the big boats) had returned to the marina. All along the way campers and residents greeted us. Best turnout we've seen since Memorial Day. Stumpy must have already been in bed because we couldn't get him out but Nathalie and crew were under the bimini and gave us a great reception.

It was about this time that Pinky turned and headed down river at great speed. Not realizing that he was sinking we pulled him over to discuss it and he informed us that he sunk faster



Pinky shows great form as he demonstrates his new bilge pump..

down river we met the big boats that were trying to find us. It's obvious that we can do better than this so next parade we are going to alter the parade route, have a procedure for emergencies (which Pinky will most likely be a part of) and make sure we maintain a constant speed so we don't lose anyone. We should always come back down river with the same number of people we went up river with. My apologies once again to Graybeard, you are an important part of our parades and we value your position in our crew and we can blame stuff on you when we screw up.

Upon our return Gatorbait's crew joined with us to yet again observe a beautiful moon and then eat the best wings in Milton at the River Run Marina.

Thanks to everyone for your time and effort – the boats looked great.

Arrgh!

Bones

